

FSA-217
(01-20-10)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency1A. County FSA Office Name and Address
(Including Zip Code)**SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, LIMITED RESOURCE
AND BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER CERTIFICATION**

1B. Telephone No. (Area Code)

1C. Program Year

(See Page 2 for Privacy Act.)

2. Applicant's Name and Address

INSTRUCTIONS:**Complete Parts A, B, C and/or Part D as applicable. Read the information relating to false certification below Part D. Return this form to the address in Item 1 above.****INFORMATION:** *If a legal entity requests to be considered a "socially disadvantaged", "limited resource", or "beginning" farmer or rancher, at least 50 percent of the persons in the entity must in their individual capacities meet the definition as provided on Page 2 of this form. Farmer or rancher includes; "owners", "operators" and "other producers".***PART A – CERTIFICATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER (2003 Act – Includes Gender)****3. I certify that the following is true by checking the box below:**

- ☐
- I am a member (or if applicable, members) of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

PART B – CERTIFICATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER (1990 Act – Excludes Gender)**4. I certify that the following is true by checking the box below:**

- ☐
- I am a member (or if applicable, members) of a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

Note: *Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (includes racial, ethnic, but not gender).***PART C – CERTIFICATION OF LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER****5. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the appropriate boxes below:**

- ☐
- My/our gross direct and indirect farm sales were not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years. Farm sales limit is subject to change to adjust for inflation using price paid by farmer index as compacted by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

AND:

- ☐
- My/our total household income is at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both the previous 2 years. Income levels are determined annually using Commerce Department data.

Note: *A limited resource farmer or rancher status may be determined by using the web site for USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self-Determination Tool located at <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.***PART D – CERTIFICATION OF BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER****6. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the appropriate boxes below:**

- ☐ a. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) have not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.
- ☐ b. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) substantially participates in the operation.
- ☐ c. I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) began farming in _____ .
Date (Month/Year)

PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION:

Evidence that may be required to validate certification may include tax records, accountant's certification, or other documentation that provides the information required. The penalty for false certification is loss of all benefits for the crop year in which the false certification was made.

7A. Applicant's Signature (By)

7B. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in
the Representative Capacity

7C. Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

Definitions:**A. Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (2003 Act-Includes Gender):**

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include: American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians or Asian Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and gender.

Note: This definition, which includes gender as a prejudice, is applicable to only Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE).

B. Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (1990 Act – Excludes Gender):

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include: American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians or Asian Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.

Note: This definition is applicable to all programs except Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE).

C. Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher:

A limited resource farmer or rancher is a farmer or rancher that meets the criteria for both of the following:

- The farmer or rancher directly or indirectly has gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous 2 years to be increased starting in FY 2004 to adjust for inflation using price paid by farmer index as compacted by NASS.
- The farmer or rancher has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both the previous 2 years, to be determined annually using Commerce Department data.

A limited resource farmer or rancher status may be determined by using the web site for USDA Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self-determination Tool located at <http://www.lrfstol.sc.egov.usda.gov/>--

D. Beginning Farmer or Rancher:

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity for which both of the following are true;

- The farmer or rancher or entity or joint operation has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.
- The farmer or rancher substantially participates in the operation.

Note. *If a legal entity requests to be considered a “socially disadvantaged”, “limited resource”, or “beginning” farmer or rancher, at least 50 percent of the persons in the entity must in their individual capacities meet the definition as provided on this form. Farmer or rancher includes: “owners”, “operators” and “other producers”.*

Note: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated) and USDA/FSA-14, Applicant/Borrower. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for program benefits.*

This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act as it is required for the administration of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (see Pub. L. 110-246, Title I, Subtitle F-Administration). The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.